Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /100 W

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MTN GENEVA 2851

ACTION STR FOR COFFIELD AND MATTHEISEN

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, MTN

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL DECISION ON NON-RUBBER FOOTWEAR

REF: A. STATE 77720, B. MTN GENEVA 2566 C. HARTZELL/MATTHEISEN TELCON, 4/18/77

1. PENDING WASHINGTON GUIDANCE TO BE PROVIDED (REF A PARA 6), WE PLAN TO RESPOND ALONG FOLLOWING LINES TO INQUIRIES REGARDING CONSISTENCY OF PROPOSED U.S. ACTION ON FOOTWEAR WITH GATT ARTICLE XIX AND IMPLICATIONS FOR USG POSITIONS IN MTN SAFEGUARD NEGOTIATIONS:

(A) U.S. IS KEENLY AWARE OF INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AS REGARDS IMPORT RELIEF ACTIONS. IN CONSULTATIONS WITH MAJOR SUPPLIERS, THIS CONCERN WILL BE ADDRESSED.

(B) U.S. DECISION AND PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED UNDER ARTICLE XIX, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR CONLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SULATIONS WITH EXPORTERS HAVING A SUBSTANTIAL SUPPLIER INTEREST IS BEING PROVIDED, CONSISTENT WITH ARTICLE XIX.

(C) SPECIFIC DETAILS AND ACTUAL FORM OF MEASURES FINALLY TO BE APPLIED, HOWEVER, WILL BE DETERMINED ONLY IN THE COURSE OF THOSE CONSULTATIONS. THEREFORE, IT

WOULD BE PREMATURE, AND EVEN UNWARRANTED, TO MAKE JUDGMENTS NOW ON CONSISTENCY OF FUTURE MEASURES WITH ARTICLE XIX AND IMPLICATIONS FOR MTN SAFEGUARD NEGOTIATIONS.

2. FYI: WE ASSUME THAT UNTIL SUCH TIME AS FORM OF IMPORT RELIEF ON SHOES TAKES CONCRETE SHAPE IN NEGOTIATIONS/CONSULTATIONS, USG WOULD WISH TO DISCOURAGE SPECULATION ON WHETHER THAT RELIEF COULD BE JUSTIFIED AS MFN APPLICATION OF MEASURES, CONSISTENT WITH PRESENT OBLIGATIONS UNDER ARTICLE XIX AND XIII, AND ON HOW HANDLING OF THIS CASE MIGHT RELATE TO U.S. OBJECTIVES IN MTN SAFEGUARD NEGOTIATIONS. SINCE ESSENTIALLY SAME QUESTIONS MAY BE RAISED REGARDING POSSIBLE U.S. ESCAPE CLAUSE ACTION ON TELEVISIONS, WE WOULD PLAN TO RESPOND ALONG SIMILAR LINES TO ANY INQUIRIES ON THAT CASE (NOTING ALSO THAT 60 DAY PERIOD FOR PRESIDENTIAL DECISION STILL RUNNING) UNTIL OR UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE. END FYI. WALKER

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